Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Regional Centre, Nagpur, out of a total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. (45%) is suffering from various kinds of degradation in the country. The details of land degradation are:—

Sl.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.68
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
	Total Degraded area	146.82

The deforestation, certain developmental activities and faulty management practices are mainly responsible for the erosion/land degradation. The Government of India is implementing various types of Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Producitivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA), (v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF), (vi) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), (vii) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (viii) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (ix) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP), and (x) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP) for development of degraded lands in the country. Under these Programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan, about 51 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed including agricultural lands.

Hybrid food crops developed by ICAR

1958. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hybrid food crop varieties developed by ICAR;

(b) the details of production-protection technologies of the above crops; and

(c) to what extent the details on (a) and (b) above helped the Andhra Pradesh to improve its agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed a number of hybrids in different food crops. In rice, hybrids such as KRH2, PA6201, 6444 and Suruchi 5401 have been popular. Similarly in other food crops popular hybrids have been developed such as DHM 103, DHM 105, paras, Buland, Trishulata in maize; CSH 16, CSH 18 in Sorghum and GHB 558, Nandi 35, MLBH 504, PAC 903 in Pearl Millet. Seed production technology of released hybrids has been developed. The integrated crop production and protection technologies have also been developed. System for Rice Intensification (SRI) method of cultivation has been found effective in enhancing the production and productivity of rice in various parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The adoption of these hybrids and their production-protection technologies have helped in enhancing the productivity of food grains in Andhra Pradesh where the food grain productivity has increased from 709 kg. per hectare during 1965-66 to 2012 kg. per hectare during 2003-04.

Food Policy

1959. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to forumlate comprehensive Food Policy in view of instability in production of foodgrains, pulses and sugar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the new Food Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has a comprehensive food policy under which Minimum Support Price (MSP)